Southern Webster County Fire Protection District

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Safety Policy

Policy No.: 2025-05

Effective Date: 08/12/2025

Issued By: Deputy Chief Justin Levy

Approved by: Board President. On

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish requirements for the use, care, and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and to outline safety standards for all operational members of the Southern Webster County Fire Protection District (SWCFPD) in order to protect personnel from injury or illness during emergency and non-emergency operations.

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2. Scope

This policy applies to all operational members of SWCFPD, including volunteer members, probationary members, and any personnel operating under district authority.

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3. Policy Statement

All members are required to wear the appropriate PPE for the task being performed and to follow established safety procedures at all times. Safety is a shared responsibility, and every member has the duty to operate in a manner that protects themselves, their crew, and the public.

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4. PPE Requirements

1. Structural Firefighting Incidents

- Full structural turnout gear, including helmet, hood, coat, pants, gloves, and boots, shall be worn.
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) must be worn in any IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health) atmosphere or when atmospheric conditions are unknown.

2. Wildland Firefighting

- Approved wildland PPE including helmet, goggles, wildland coat, wildland pants, gloves, and fire-resistant boots.

3. Medical Incidents

- Medical examination gloves are mandatory on all patient contacts.
- Eye protection and masks shall be worn when there is a risk of exposure to bodily fluids.
- Additional PPE (gowns, N95 respirators) will be used as dictated by exposure risk.

4. Rescue Operations

- PPE appropriate to the type of rescue

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5. Safety Standards

1. Two-In/Two-Out

- In compliance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134, no member shall enter an IDLH atmosphere without at least one partner and two members outside for rescue, unless a viable rescue can be conducted

2. Incident Safety Officer (ISO)

- An ISO shall be assigned at all working incidents to monitor conditions and ensure compliance with safety standards.

3. Rehabilitation (Rehab)

- Rehab operations shall be established at incidents with extended operations, extreme temperatures, or high exertion levels.

- Members shall comply with rehab monitoring and rest requirements before returning to operations.

4. Seatbelt Use

- Seatbelts must be worn by all members while riding in any district apparatus or vehicle.

5. Tool & Equipment Safety

- Only trained members may operate tools and equipment.
- PPE must be worn appropriate to the tool being used (e.g., hearing protection, eye protection).

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6. PPE Care & Maintenance

- Members are responsible for keeping PPE clean, serviceable, and ready for use.
- All PPE shall be inspected after each use and at least monthly.
- Any damaged, contaminated, or defective PPE must be removed from service and reported immediately to their Company Officer.
- PPE will be cleaned and maintained per NFPA 1851 and manufacturer recommendations.

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7. Compliance

- Failure to wear required PPE or follow safety procedures will result in immediate removal from the hazardous area and may lead to disciplinary action.
- Supervisors are responsible for enforcing PPE and safety compliance on all incidents.

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8. References

- NFPA 1500 – Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program

- NFPA 1851 – Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting
- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134 – Respiratory Protection
- Missouri Division of Fire Safety Regulations